

Pastelgram

In and outdoors, Age 6 – 16, Cost per student in £– 00.40

Curriculum areas – Science, Art, Photography, Chemistry.

A Pastelgram uses coloured wax crayons on photographic paper to mask areas with colour. When this coloured drawing on the white photo paper is placed in the developer, the background changes from light to dark (or from 'day to night'). The areas obstructed by the crayon inhibit development and keep their colour on the white background. It is great to do with small children as they love colouring in and seeing the background change to black.

The process is done in the light and can use shop bought developer or home-made 'caffenol' developer [Video here](#). One benefit of the pastelgram is it doesn't require fixing, just washing in water for a few minutes.



[Pastelgram demonstration video here](#)

[Owl Pastelgram Video here](#)

What do I need?

- Light sensitive photographic paper.
- Oil pastel crayons (or chalk crayons). Wax crayons will work well on non-plastic paper. (best to experiment in advance)
- Three bowls one for developer and two for water.

Making the image

- Suggest they draw a dark related scene such as: a wood, a graveyard, an owl, a scene in space with the moon and Saturn with a rocket, shooting stars etc.
- Make sure the student includes their initials on the back of the paper.
- After a few minutes drawing put the images individually into the developer for around 1 minute and watch the paper go black.
- Wash the paper in the first bowl for 30 seconds then the second for 1 minute.



Trouble shooting.

The softer wax crayons or pastels work best. Hard crayons don't leave enough wax to inhibit the developer. Permanent markers don't work at all where 'chalk pens' do (although the metallic ones wash off in the developer!). Practice with several types of pen beforehand.

Be aware that oil pastels are a bit messy!